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121 MAY 14 AM 1959

Control: 8619

Rec'd: MAY 14, 1959
8:01 AM

FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 4183, MAY 14, 11 AM

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 4183; REPEATED INFORMATION BERLIN 156,
BONN 466, LONDON 930, MOSCOW 290.

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HR-M JUN 1 - 3/3/59

EMBASSY BELIEVES FRENCH WILL PROBABLY AGREE TO WIDE-RANGE COUNTER-HARRASSEMENTS WITHIN GERMANY AND ALSO ACQUIESCE IN MEASURES WE OURSELVES MIGHT WISH TO TAKE ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, EMBASSY RECALLS THAT IN DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT SOME YEARS PAST FRENCH HAVE SHOWN RELUCTANCE TOWARD PLANNING WORLD-WIDE COUNTER-HARRASSEMENTS. ON OTHER HAND, WHEN PROVOKED FRENCH HAVE ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION- BLASTING OF SOVIET RADIO TOWER FRENCH SECTOR BERLIN- GONE FARTHER IN PRACTISE THAN ALLIES MIGHT HAVE CONSIDERED PRUDENT.

ON BALANCE, EMBASSY BELIEVES FRENCH UNDER DE GAULLE WOULD BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO TYPE OF PLANNING REFTEL THAN IN FOURTH REPUBLIC. HOWEVER, AS IN CASE OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING ON ACCESS TO BERLIN, WE BELIEVE FRENCH WOULD REFRAIN FROM COMMITTING THEMSELVES A PRIORI PREFERRING TO RESERVE TAKING OF FINAL DECISION ONLY IN LIGHT OF ACTUAL EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES.

MAY
HOUGHTON
22 1959
FILED

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